

ANCESTORS OF WOODROW KESCLE ALIFF

By Anita L. Aliff Williams

Woodrow Kescle Aliff was born March 30, 1907, at Montcalm, Mercer County, West Virginia, to Commodore “Lloyd” and Martha “Mattie” (Scott) Aliff, and died October 1, 1996, at Cirtsville, Raleigh County. When Woodrow was three years old, his father was killed while trying to uncouple an air hose on a freight train near Switchback, McDowell County, West Virginia. The Norfolk and Western brakeman was instantly killed when the train started, throwing him under the wheel and cutting his body completely in two. Lloyd is buried along the fence line facing Texas Hollow in Alleghany Springs, Montgomery County, Virginia.

Commodore “Lloyd” and “Mattie” (Scott) Aliff were married September 24, 1904, in Mercer County. Martha “Mattie” was the daughter of James Odie and Phoebe (Harman) Scott, the granddaughter of William Riley and Mary Elizabeth (Harless) Scott, and the great-granddaughter of Henry and Elizabeth Greiner (Criner) Scott.

1880 Montgomery County, Virginia

Alleghany Magisterial District

9 June 1880

Household #140/147

Thomas Aliff	26	works on farm	born VA
Nannie	25	wife housekeeper	born VA
Lilly F	9	daughter	born VA
Washington	9	son	born VA
Maggie	6	daughter	born VA
Thomas	4	son	born VA
Lloyd	1	son	born VA

Lloyd and Mattie were the parents of four children:

- Nanny Aliff died in early childhood.
- Rudolph Aliff died in early childhood.
- Delores married Carl Gillianwater and Hardy Eastman. She died in 1946 leaving two sons: Clyde and J. C. Gillianwater.
- Woodrow Aliff and his first wife Ethel Bolen were the parents of three children all born at Helen, Raleigh County, West Virginia. Woodrow married second Madeline Williams of Pax, Fayette County. They had two sons and three daughters, all born in Logan County, West Virginia. Woodrow and Madeline (my parents)

spent 20 years in Logan County due to the fact that the mines at Milburn did not take out Social Security on the men who worked there. So Dad and George Graham went to Omar where George's brother worked for Island Creek. Dad also worked at Jewell Ridge Coal Company and Snap Creek Coal Company, before returning to Raleigh County to work for Westmorland Coal Company at Eccles. Dad retired in 1963 and spent the next 27 years working in his wood shop.

"Lloyd" Aliff was the fifth child of William Thomas "Tom" and Nanny (Glovier) Aliff who were married in a double ceremony on February 17, 1870, in Montgomery County, West Virginia, along with Tom's sister Sarah who married Nanny's brother Griffin Glovier.

William Thomas "Tom" Aliff was born October 14, 1844, in Franklin County, Virginia, and his parents were Thomas and Nancy Elizabeth Aliff. "Tom" died May 24, 1894, and is buried at Alleghany Springs where his son Lloyd is also buried. In 1995, after searching for some time, we found the place where William Thomas "Tom" and Lloyd were buried. Woodrow bought a tombstone for them and Kescle, Lloyd, Joey, James, Sandy, Alyssa, Alex, Roger, Heather, and Anita set the headstone. Minutes afterward it poured the rain for several hours.

Nanny (Glovier) Aliff was born May 8, 1852, in Montgomery County, Virginia. She was married second to John P. Crumpacker on April 23, 1912, Montgomery County, Virginia. Nanny died March 4, 1940, and is buried next to her son Tom Aliff and his two wives Eliza Likens and Edith Mason Aliff at Pleasant View Cemetery at Gatewood, Fayette County, West Virginia.

Thomas Aliff was born May 20, 1806, in Bedford County, Virginia, and died August 16, 1893, in the Cooper Creek area of Russell County, Virginia. Thomas married Nancy Elizabeth about 1826. This Thomas Aliff was the son of William A. and Sophia (Edwards) Aliff, grandson of Thomas Aloft (Aliff) who died about 1816 in Bedford County, and the great-grandson of Thomas Ayloff of St. Margaret, Westminster, England, who was single, was transported in January 1741 for stealing two sheep.

Sources:

English Convicts In Colonial America, Volume 1, Middlesex: 1617-1775,

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Census records

Cemetery records

Personal knowledge